Project Hoosier
SAFE-T News
Summer 2005

INSIDE

Summer Heats up for SAFE-T!

System Buildout almost 50% complete

Sweltering summer heat won't stop SAFE-T staff from moving down south! Most of the state's northern and central communications sites are now completed, so now the focus turns to the south central and southern half of Indiana.

To date, there are 57 communications sites operational on the Project Hoosier SAFE-T system. Eight sites are under construction and seven more are scheduled for construction. By summer's end, 72 sites will be active and operational, covering more than 3/4ths of Indiana's population. (For a detailed map showing the active, pending and planned sites for Project Hoosier SAFE-T, visit our website, www.in.gov/IPSC/SAFE-T). In addition, there are already more than 14,000 radios registered in the system database

Mobile Data Expands
While establishing a platform for voice interoperability remains IPSC's primary goal, the project also allows first responder agencies to make use of technology to access and share data. Mobile Data pilot projects have expanded from a couple of agencies to sixteen agencies on the network.

Into the Future
What does all this mean for Indiana first responders? Those already on the SAFE-T system will testify to the strengths of increased coverage and cross-agency interoperability. For those in the southern part of the state, it means you will probably be getting a call from one of our field coordinators in the near future.
In addition, our agency goals are:

- To continue to build out the system, completing the northern and central parts of the state and moving into the southern zones.
- To continue to aggressively pursue funding to build communications sites and also to help local first responders find grants for user equipment.
- To reduce costs whenever possible. Our primary goal, however, will be to save lives through interoperable communication.
- To expand mobile data capabilities so that first responders can share criminal history, driving records, and other database information to prepare them for any situation.
- To publish and distribute a statewide interoperability plan that details emergency response protocol.
- To serve as the lead agency for the 800 MHz Reconfiguration Program, providing information and guidance to county and local public safety organizations as they comply with this complex reorganization of the radio spectrum.

Who You Gonna Call?

Got a problem with a network circuit? Need to have an emergency radio ID identified or to have a radio enabled or disabled? Call the NOC!

Project Hoosier SAFE-T users will soon be able to access our sophisticated network system for help with issues like these and other trouble or questions. The Network Operations Center, or "NOC" as we call it, is located in the Project Hoosier SAFE-T offices at the Indiana Government Center in Indianapolis. The center will be staffed between 7:30 a.m., and 10:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) to serve the Hoosier SAFE-T network of public safety users.

Hoosier SAFE-T recently recruited two highly qualified individuals to manage the NOC. Dennis A. Eaton, Senior Systems Administrator, comes to the SAFE-T team from the Indiana State Police Information Technology Division. Dennis will oversee all operating systems related technology, operations and software/systems upgrades, as well as day-to-day customer support. Douglas Cochrane, Network Engineer, joined Project SAFE-T from MECA (Metropolitan Emergency Communications Agency). Doug will manage network operations and mobile data/message switching functions and will also provide customer support.

First & Second Level Statewide Help Desk
In addition to managing and operating the Hoosier SAFE-T network, the NOC will be a first & second level help desk to respond to user questions and help to resolve problems. Using some rather complex network management tools, staff will monitor all communications sites, initiate trouble tickets for problems or outages, and monitor all telecommunications circuits (T1's) for performance. NOC staff is responsible for provisioning and restoring all T1 circuits in conjunction with local exchange carriers and AT&T.

How to Contact the NOC
State, local, county, and federal agencies may call the NOC operations staff anytime at **317-234-1540**. After hours, weekends and holidays, calls will immediately forward to our on-call pager system; someone will call back as soon as possible. For issues with mobile and portable radios, RF control stations and communications consoles, agencies should continue to call the radio service provider, i.e., RACOMM, ERS, Owens Communications, Motorola Field Service, etc.

When will the NOC be operational?
During the next several weeks, Dennis and Doug will finalize daily operational procedures, conduct equipment surveys and complete necessary backups in preparation for going live. We expect the NOC to be operational Tuesday, September 6, 2005. Please join us in welcoming Dennis and Doug to the Project Hoosier SAFE-T staff.

Dennis Eaton, Senior Systems Administrator (left) and Doug Cochrane, Network Engineer (right) will manage the NOC

SAFE-T at Work

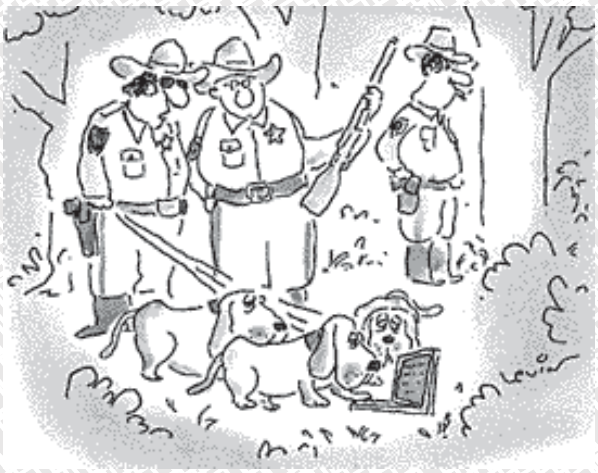
Interoperability is not just about first responder communications. Interoperability is also about good communications between people or groups.

The success of the SAFE-T network depends upon good communication -- and feedback from you, the user, is a vital part of that process.

If you are registered in our system, you'll soon be receiving an email questionnaire asking for comments, suggestions and first-hand experiences with the SAFE-T system. We're looking for specific comments about how the network has improved first responder interoperability and also ways it has fallen short and needs to be improved. Specific incidents will be most valuable and will allow us to duplicate successes, repair problems, or educate users better on system process and protocol.

If you'd like to receive this questionnaire and you're not sure if you're in our database, send your email address to sfay@ipsc.state.in.us. We'll also post the questionnaire online at www.in.gov/ipsc/safe-t. Thank you in advance for your valuable feedback!

Mobile Data Technology?



"First, they do an online search"

SAFE-T Goes to Washington

Illustrious National Academies Panel Seeks SAFE-T Input

Project Hoosier SAFE-T has gained a national reputation as an innovative, cost-effective way to tackle the interoperability "crisis," even within academic circles.

In June, Project Hoosier SAFE-T Implementation Director Dave Smith was asked to discuss the SAFE-T model before a prestigious National Academies panel investigating the use of "Information Technology to Enhance Disaster Management."

Smith joined roughly two dozen presenters from around the country, including policymakers from NASA, leading US universities, cities such as Los Angeles and San Diego and the federal government. One of the keynote presenters, David Boyd, Director, Office for Interoperability and Compatibility, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, "confirmed that our approach in Indiana is precisely on target," said Smith.

In his presentation, Boyd emphasized that while technology advancements are necessary and needed, local first responders most need reliable voice interoperability; that interoperability is a LOCAL issue, not a state or federal issue; and that local first responders have to be able to rely 100% on the technology or there will be no "buy-in."

And that's precisely what Project Hoosier SAFE-T has done, said Smith. "Project Hoosier SAFE-T is a result of local first responders formulating their needs. It is truly a grass-roots project that has a firm grip on financial reality, but will allow for technology expansion in the future."

The goal of the panel is to develop a "final comprehensive report with findings and recommendations addressing (1) requirements for effective use of information technology for crisis preparedness, response, and consequence management, (2) research and development needs, and (3) research management and technology transition strategy."

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES
Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine

For more then 140 years, the National Academies has served as "advisors to the nation," providing cutting edge research and discussion on topics ranging from genomics to bioterrorism prevention to memory and consciousness. Abraham Lincoln incorporated the National Academies in 1863 to "investigate, examine, experiment, and report upon any subject of science or art" whenever called upon to do so by the government. Since then, the Academies has played an illustrious role in the history of the country. Among other highlights, the NAS initiated the US earth satellite effort in the 1950's; and sponsored conferences on theoretical quantum physics in the 1940's. Known as the Shelter Island Conferences, these conferences are recognized as the landmark event in the history of postwar American physics.

For more on the National Academies Workshop on Using Information Technology to Enhance Disaster Management, visit their website at http://www7.nationalacademies.org/cstb/project_fema_workshop.html.

"Interoperability is a LOCAL not Federal issue -- it is *their* people, resources and infrastructure."
--David Boyd, Director, Office for Interoperability and Compatibility, U.S Department of Homeland Security

800 MHz Rebanding Report

The first "wave" has hit! In June the Transition Manager, the government's administrator of the behemoth rebanding task, began mailing proposed new frequency assignments to license holders in the first phase of the reorganization. Indiana is included in this first wave.

As the license holder for many of the state's frequencies, the Integrated Public Safety Commission is serving as an information/resource for local Indiana agencies forced to relocate to a different spectrum. In addition to helping locals with inventories, Project Hoosier SAFE-T staff is looking to hire specialists who can ease the transition for both state and local users.

The primary intent of the 800 MHz Reconfiguration Program is to end interference on public safety radio systems by separating signals from commercial wireless telephone networks from radio networks operated by public safety groups and other licensees. Separation requires moving public safety licensee groups down to spectrum lower in the 800 MHz band, moving commercial cell phone companies up to higher spectrum, and establishing a "guard band," or buffer, to ensure that signals from the different radio networks will not continue to interfere with each other.

If you need information or help with the rebanding process, call Steve Skinner at 317.233.8625 or visit our website, http://www.in.gov/ipsc/safe-t.

SAFE-T by the Numbers

6.2 million	Number of Hoosiers who live and work in Indiana
1.2 million	Number of school-aged children who travel to and from school each day.
630	Average number of crimes committed each day in Indiana
300,000	Average number of incidents Indiana firefighters respond to each year
1	Rank in the entire US for tornado threat (US Disaster Organization)
76	Average annual snowfall, in inches, in northern Indiana each year
93608	Miles of public roads for law enforcement officers to patrol and transportation workers to plow
400,000	Number of US and International fans who attend the Indy 500 each May, by far the largest sports event in the world
70 million	Tons of cargo shipped by water via Indiana ports
219,241	Average number of car crashes in Indiana per year (1996-2000 data)
532,854	Tons of salt spread by INDOT workers during the winter of 2003
4	Number, per minute, of aircraft that take off in Indiana
250,000	Gallons of deadly nerve agent VX stored at Newport Chemical Depot
14,000	Number of radios already registered on the SAFE-T System
72	Number of Indiana local, state and federal agencies using the SAFE-T system (with just under half of the infrastructure built)

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SAFE-T in a Nutshell

SAFE-T is a statewide, interoperable, wireless public safety communications system for Indiana local, state, and federal first responders/public safety officials. SAFE-T operates on a Motorola 4.1 Astro Smartzone OmniLink 800 MHz trunked voice and data system. It supports both analog and digital radios, providing 95% mobile radio coverage statewide using 126 communications sites connected by T1 lines and microwave.

SAFE-T will allow seamless, interoperable and reliable communications among local, state, and federal public safety agencies during routine, emergency and task force situations. SAFE-T will strengthen community safety and security, minimize costs and barriers to communications, and break down regionalization of systems to combat crime, natural disaster and terrorism. SAFE-T was designed to include wide voluntary participation of public safety agencies/first responders while respecting local autonomy.